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**Testimony in Support of House Bill 5300:
An Act Concerning the Use of Genetically Modified Organisms in Children's Food**

Submitted by: George Stone
174 Selden Hill Drive
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Senator Dante, Representative Urban and distinguished members of the Committee on Children,

I am George Stone, a citizen living in West Hartford, Connecticut, and co-chair of the Environmental Ministry Team of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ, and I am writing today in support of House Bill 5300: An Act Concerning the Use of Genetically Modified Organisms in Children's Food.

Our Environmental Ministry Team is charged with the responsibility of informing our churches and members about issues concerning the care of the creation we have received, and upon which all life on Earth depends. We are also charged with the task of helping to preserve and restore this environment so that future generations may live abundantly.

In 2012, our Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ passed a resolution at our Annual Meeting: To Support State Legislation Requiring all Genetically Modified Foods to be Labeled on Food Packaging. Our Conference passed this resolution so that consumers will have complete information about the food they eat. This will allow people to examine the full impact of components on both individuals and on the environment, which supports us all.

I am gratified that our Connecticut Legislature passed a GMO labeling bill in one of its past sessions. That law requires that similar GMO labeling bills be passed in several contiguous states with certain populations before the Connecticut law becomes effective.

While enabling legislation in other states has not yet passed, the labeling of infant formula, baby food and children's foods is especially important. The physical and mental development of infants and children is generally recognized as being more vulnerable to biological, environmentally and chemical issues than full grown individuals, due to their small size and developing organs.

Parents and caregivers need to know all the ingredients and sources of the food that infants and young people eat. Labeling of Genetically Modified Organisms in their food will accomplish that.

I therefore urge the Committee to support House Bill 5300.

Thank you for your dedication to the wellbeing of the children of our state and for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill 5300.

Sincerely,

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